



## City of Atlanta Water and Sewer Rate Adjustment

# UPDATE

### WHAT WE'RE DOING TO LESSEN THE IMPACT

As of Friday, November 14, 2003, in response to our concern about the affordability of the proposed rate increase, I announced the administration's support of Councilmember Clair Muller's proposed amendment. This conservation amendment aims to stabilize rates while generating money for necessary system repairs and improvements.

With this amendment, if your water/sewer bill is currently \$18 per month for 2,250 gallons, your new bill will remain \$18 per month. Only the rate for water usage above 2,250 gallons (over 3 CCFs) per month will increase. For instance, under this proposed legislation, if your water bill is currently \$49.67 for 6,000 gallons, your new bill will be \$63.55 per month.

The administration proposes to expand the Care and Conserve Program for low-income ratepayers who qualify for plumbing repairs or emergency billing payments. I am also seeking federal, state and local funding for the clean water program. These funds will especially help senior citizens and low-income families.

Like you, we are deeply concerned about these rate increases. Unfortunately, the legacy this administration must grapple with includes deferred bond payments that come due in 2004, federal court decisions requiring infrastructure improvements, and a possible sewer moratorium stopping economic growth and development. We must also pay for Homeland Security requirements.

I am committed to securing Atlanta's future prosperity. Working together, we can successfully ensure a cleaner, healthier and affordable city for our children and grandchildren.

*Shirley Franklin*  
Mayor of Atlanta



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### TOP 6 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WATER & SEWER IN OUR CITY

- 1. We're polluting streams. Sewage is going into our rivers and streams. We need to stop this.**

*Federal EPA and State EPD mandate us to improve water quality. By 2007, we must meet federal consent decrees and homeland security requirements along with other regulatory orders.*

- 2. Without infrastructure improvements, sewer overflows could cause health risks and contamination.**

*We have too much sewage for the pipes we have. This causes backups into our homes and streams.*

- 3. Our drinking water system is more than 100 years old.**

*We have leaks and brown water, and face system failures and severe service reductions if we do not fix the drinking water pipes.*

- 4. We face severe financial consequences if we do not meet federal and state regulations by 2007 and 2014.**

*Crippling fines and higher costs for operating a broken system are two immediate repercussions.*

- 5. Without these improvements, no new economic development and jobs can occur.**

*By July 2004, we will be at 85% capacity. This will be one of the largest public works projects in recent history, bringing jobs to metro Atlanta.*

- 6. We developed a plan to rebuild our water and sewer systems.**

*This plan will improve drinking water quality and ensure we put clean water back into our rivers. Our children and grandchildren will live in a cleaner, healthier and more affordable city if we invest now.*

#### Our Payment Plan Services to Customers

Beginning summer of 2004, we will be billing customers monthly. This will simplify your budgeting.

We will also offer customers facing a temporary financial hardship the option of paying their water and sewer bill in 2 to 12 monthly installments.